

DECLARATION OF SHAWN B. AZIZZADEH

1. I am an attorney at law duly licensed to practice before all of the courts of the State of
2 California. I am the owner of Bedford Law Group, APC, Movant in the above captioned case. I have
3 personal knowledge of the facts hereinafter set forth and if called as a witness, I could and would
4 competently testify hereto. I make this Declaration in support of Movant's Motion to Lift the
5 Automatic Stay Pursuant To 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(1).

7 2. Movant, Bedford Law Group, A PC filed an action in California Superior Court for
8 the County of Los Angeles, Central Division, against Defendant, Thomas V. Girardi and his law
9 firm, Girardi Keese Lawyers, in addition to eleven (11) other Defendants on August 31, 2020 for
10 Breach of Contract and derivative actions thereto. Subsequently, Girardi Keese Lawyers filed for
11 bankruptcy. Neither Thomas V. Girardi, nor the eleven (11) other Defendants in the state court
12 action have filed for bankruptcy.

13 3. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** is a true and correct copy of the Complaint file against Thomas
14 V. Girardi, Girardi Keese Lawyers, and 11 (eleven) other Defendants.

15 4. Movant alleges several causes of action including, (1) Breach of Contract, (2)
16 Intentional Interference with Contractual Relations, (3) Negligent Interference with Prospective
17 Economic Relations, (4) Breach of Duty of Good Faith and Fair Dealing, (5) Violation of California
18 Business Code § 17200 et seq.; and (6) Declaratory Relief. Notably, causes of action two (2)
19 Intentional Interference with Contractual Relations and three (3) Negligent Interference with
20 Prospective Economic Relations, are not made against Thomas V. Girardi or Girardi Keese
21 Lawyers.

22 5. Movant alleges that Bedford Law Group, A PC and Thomas V. Girardi agreed to co-counsel
23 on a civil case wherein Bedford Law Group, A PC, would receive twenty-five percent of any
24 attorney's fees recovered. Bedford Law Group, A PC agreed to the fee split and Thomas V. Girardi
25 confirmed the agreement in writing on April 14, 2016. Attached herein as **Exhibit 2** is a true and
26 correct copy of correspondence from Thomas V. Girardi to Bedford Law Group A PC agreeing to
27 a 25% fee split on April 14, 2016.

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6. On or about May 28, 2019, Girardi Keese Lawyers informed Bedford Law Group, A PC, that the case had settled in the amount of \$934,300.00. Attached herein as **Exhibit 3** is a true and correct copy of Girardi and Keese Lawyers correspondence to Bedford Law Group, A PC confirming the underlying case settled in the amount of \$934,300.00.

7. Bedford Law Group, A PC made a demand for twenty-five percent of the attorney's fees recovered. Girardi Keese Lawyers responded that, "Mr. Girardi's offer to provide you with a 25% fee was withdrawn . . ." In anticipation of Girardi Keese Lawyers' breach of contract, Bedford Law Group, A PC, filed a Notice of Lien with the State Court on June 22, 2017 and Girardi Keese Lawyers of the same. Movant contends that Girardi Keese Lawyers willfully withheld information regarding Bedford Law Group, A PC's lien on the case from paying insurance companies. Movant further alleges that all the settlement funds received in the underlying case have been paid and disbursed to the medical providers, the underlying plaintiff, and Girardi Keese Lawyers.

8. Movant alleges that Thomas V. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers directed the paying insurance companies to omit Bedford Law Group, A PC from the settlement checks in exchange for an indemnification agreement. The paying insurance companies did, in fact, omit Bedford Law Group, A PC from the settlement checks in exchange for an indemnification agreement. To date, Girardi Keese Lawyers refuse to provide Bedford Law Group, A PC with twenty-five percent of the attorney's fees in the case.

9. Movant alleges that Girardi V. Thomas and Girardi Keese Lawyers' conduct was an intentional and malicious component of a larger scheme to withhold payment from Movant, Bedford law Group, A PC and other similarly situated beneficiaries seeking payment of agreed upon attorney's fees and/or liens.

10. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on the 4th day of January, 2021 in Los Angeles, California.



Shawn Azizzadeh, Esq.

EXHIBIT 1

1 Shawn Azizzadeh, Esq. CSB No. 227558
2 Michelle Balady, Esq. CSB No. 316525
3 BEDFORD LAW GROUP,
4 A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION
5 1875 Century Park East, Suite 1790
6 Los Angeles, CA 90067
7 Telephone: (310) 507-7900
8 Facsimile: (310) 507-7910

6 Attorneys for Plaintiffs,
7 Shawn Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, PC

FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

10/21/2020

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court

By: A. Flores Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – CENTRAL DISTRICT

SHAWN AZIZZADEH and BEDFORD LAW
GROUP P.C.,

Case No.: 20STCV33498

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT AND
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiffs,
vs.

AWYERS; THOMAS V.
AND MENDES LLP;
ERTSON LLP;
TEDOR; JAMES RIVER
PANY; INFINITY
UALTY
BER TECHNOLOGIES,
RASIER-CAL, LLC;
RA; JOE E. NOWOTNY;
S; and DOES 1 through

- 1) BREACH OF CONTRACT
- 2) INTENTIONAL INTERFERENCE WITH CONTRACTUAL RELATIONS
- 3) NEGLIGENT INTERFERENCE WITH PROSPECTIVE ECONOMIC RELATIONS
- 4) BREACH OF DUTY OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING
- 5) VIOLATION OF CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17200 *et seq.*; AND
- 6) DECLARATORY RELIEF
- 7) ACCOUNTING
- 8) QUANTUM MERUIT

Defendant(s).

COMES NOW, Plaintiffs, Shawn Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, P.C. (hereinafter "Plaintiffs") with complaints against the above-named Defendants and for causes of action against Defendants, and each of them as follows:

INTRODUCTION

2 1. Plaintiffs, Shawn Azizzadeh, Esq. and Bedford Law Group P.C. entered into a verbal and
3 written agreement with Thomas G. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers on April 14, 2016 for
4 twenty-five percent of the attorney's fees recovered in a civil case entitled *Christina Fulton v.*
5 *Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.*; LASC Case No.: BC614754. Upon settlement, Defendants, Tom
6 V. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers fraudulently, unlawfully, unfairly, and in bad faith refused
7 to tender twenty-five percent of the attorney's fees recovered. Defendants, Tyson And Mendes
8 LLP; Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP; Farmer Case & Fedor; James River Insurance Company, and
9 Infinity Property & Casualty Corporation, fraudulently, unlawfully, unfairly, and in bad faith
10 refused to include Plaintiffs, Shawn Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, P.C., on the settlement
11 check prior to tendering it to Tom V. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers.

THE PARTIES

13 2. At all times mentioned herein, Plaintiff, Shawn Azizzadeh, (hereinafter "Mr. Azizzadeh")
14 was and is an attorney licensed to practice in California and residing in Los Angeles, California.
15 Mr. Azizzadeh was and currently is the owner, director and manager of Bedford Law Group, P.C.

16 3. At all times mentioned herein, Plaintiff, Bedford Law Group, P.C. was, and is, a
17 corporation and law firm duly organized and licensed to do business in, and doing business in the
18 County of Los Angeles and the State of California.

19 4. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant, Girardi Keese Lawyers was, and is, a
20 corporation and law firm duly organized and licensed to do business in, and doing business in the
21 County of Los Angeles and the State of California.

22 5. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant, Thomas V. Girardi was and is an attorney
23 licensed to practice in California and resides in Los Angeles, California. Mr. Girardi was and
24 currently is an owner, director and manager of Girardi Keese Lawyers.

25 6. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant, Nelgar J. Carrera was, and is, an individual
26 residing in Los Angeles, California.

27 7. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant, Felix Arguelles was, and is, an individual
28 residing in Los Angeles, California.

1 8. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant, Jose E. Nowotny was, and is, an individual
2 residing in Los Angeles, California.

3 9. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant, Tyson And Mendes LLP was, and is, a
4 corporation and law firm duly organized and licensed to do business in and doing business in the
5 County of Los Angeles and the State of California.

6 10. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP was, and is, a
7 corporation and law firm duly organized and licensed to do business in and doing business in the
8 County of Los Angeles and the State of California.

9 11. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant, Farmer Case & Fedor was, and is, a corporation
10 and law firm duly organized and licensed to do business in and doing business in the County of
11 Los Angeles and the State of California.

12 12. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant, Uber Technologies, Inc. was and is a
13 corporation doing business in Los Angeles, California.

14 13. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant, Rasier, LLC was and is a California
15 Corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of California.

16 14. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant, Raiser-Cal, LLC was and is a California
17 Corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of California.

18 15. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant, James River Insurance was and is a California
19 Corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of California.

20 16. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant, Infinity Property & Casualty Corporation was
21 and is a California Corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of California.

22 17. Plaintiff is ignorant of the true names and capacities, whether corporate, associate,
23 successor, alter ego, general employer, special employer, joint employer, client employer, labor
24 contractor, individual or otherwise, of Defendants sued herein as DOES 1 – 50, Inclusive, and
25 therefore sues said Defendants, and each of them, by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will seek
26 leave of court to amend this Complaint to assert the true names and capacities of the fictitiously
27 named Defendants when the same have been ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and
28 thereon alleges, that each Defendant designated as “DOES” herein is legally responsible for the

1 events, happenings, acts, occurrences, indebtedness, damages and liabilities hereinafter alleged
2 and caused injuries and damages proximately therapy to the Plaintiffs, hereinafter alleged.

3 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

4 18. On January 7, 2016, Christina Fulton contacted Bedford Law Group regarding a motor
5 vehicle incident she was involved in that occurred on January 5, 2016. That same day, Christina
6 Fulton entered into an agreement with Bedford Law Group, P.C. to represent her in a lawsuit
7 arising from and pertaining to the damages incurred while riding as a passenger in an Uber
8 vehicle during a motor vehicle incident.

9 19. Christina Fulton signed and dated a retainer agreement, wherein Bedford Law Group
10 agreed to represent Christina Fulton in her civil lawsuit against Uber Technologies, Inc. et al.

11 20. Bedford Law Group, P.C. immediately began obtaining medical records on Ms. Fulton's
12 behalf and submitting letters of representation.

13 21. After Shawn Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, P.C. had performed significant
14 investigation and work on the case, Defendant, Thomas V. Girardi advised Shawn Azizzadeh of
15 Bedford Law Group, P.C. that Girardi Keese Lawyers would be taking over the handling of Ms.
16 Fulton's case. Defendants suggested a fee split wherein Plaintiffs, Bedford Law Group, P.C.
17 would receive twenty-five percent of any attorney's fees recovered in *Fulton v. Uber*
18 *Technologies, Inc., et al.*; LASC Case No.: BC614754 in exchange for co-counseling the case
19 (hereinafter the "agreement").

20 22. Shawn Azizzadeh of Bedford Law Group, P.C. agreed to the fee split and Defendant
21 Girardi confirmed the agreement in writing on April 14, 2016.

22 23. On or about May 28, 2019, Samantha Gold, from Girardi Keese Lawyers informed Mr.
23 Azizzadeh that *Fulton v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.* had settled in the amount of \$934,300.00.

24 24. Mr. Azizzadeh requested twenty-five percent of the attorney's fees recovered, as agreed
25 upon, and received a response from Samantha Gold from Girardi Keese Lawyers stating, "Mr.
26 Girardi's offer to provide you with a 25% fee was withdrawn . . ."

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25. In anticipation of Defendant Girardi Keese Lawyers breach of contract, Shawn Azizzadeh of Bedford Law Group, P.C., filed a Notice of Lien with the Court on June 22, 2017 and mailed the same to Defendants, Girardi Keese Lawyers.

26. On information and belief, Girardi Keese Lawyers willfully withheld information regarding Bedford Law Group, P.C.'s lien on the case from the Defendants' insurance company.

27. On information and belief, all the settlement funds received in Ms. Fulton's case have been paid and disbursed to the medical providers, Christina Fulton, and Girardi Keese Lawyers.

28. On information and belief, Plaintiff thereon alleges that Thomas V. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers directed Defendants to omit Mr. Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, P.C. from the settlement checks in exchange for an indemnification agreement.

29. On information and belief, Plaintiff thereon alleges that Defendants did omit Mr. Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, P.C. from the settlement checks in exchange for an indemnification agreement.

30. To date, Girardi Keese Lawyers refuse to provide Mr. Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, P.C. with twenty-five percent of the attorney's fees in the case.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Breach of Contract

(Against Thomas V. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers)

31. Plaintiffs re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

32. Shawn Azizzadeh of Bedford Law Group, P.C. entered into an agreement with Thomas V. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers on April 14, 2016 wherein Thomas V. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers would pay Shawn Azizzadeh of Bedford Law Group, P.C. twenty-five percent of the attorney's fees recovered on *Fulton v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.*; LASC Case No.: BC614754 in exchange for co-counseling and assistance on the case.

33. On or about May 28, 2019, Samantha Gold, from Girardi Keese Lawyers informed Mr. Azizzadeh that *Fulton v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.* had settled in the amount of \$934,300.00.

34. To date, Girardi Keese Lawyers refuse to tender twenty-five percent of the attorney's fees recovered in the case to Mr. Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, P.C.

35. Mr. Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, P.C. have performed all conditions, covenants, and promises required by them on their part to be performed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the written agreement.

36. As a result of Defendants' actions, Plaintiffs have suffered damage and Defendants' breach of contract was a substantial factor in causing harm in an amount to be proven at trial.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Intentional Interference of Contractual Relations

Against Defendants Tyson And Mendes LLP; Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP; Farmer Case & Fedor; James River Insurance Company; Infinity Property & Casualty Corporation; Uber Technologies, Inc.; Rasier, LLC, Rasier-Cal, LLC; Nelgar J. Carrera; Joe E. Nowotny; Felix Arguelles

37. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

38. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them, had actual knowledge of the contract between Girardi Keese Lawyers and Bedford Law Group, P.C. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them, also had knowledge of Bedford Law Group, P.C.'s lien on the case.

39. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them, issued a check upon settlement to Girardi Keese Lawyers and intentionally excluded Bedford Law Group, A PC's name from the check.

40. Defendants, and each of them, intentionally interfered with the contract between Plaintiffs and Defendants, Thomas V. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers.

41. Defendants, and each of them, intended to disrupt the performance of, and/or induce a breach of this contract by omitting Bedford Law Group, P.C.'s name from the settlement check tendered to Girardi Keese Lawyers.

42. Defendants' conduct prevented performance of the contract and/or made performance more expensive, difficult or impossible.

43. Defendants' conduct was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiffs' harm in an amount to be proven at trial.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Negligent Interference of Contractual Relations

(Against Defendants Tyson And Mendes LLP; Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP; Farmer Case & Fedor; James River Insurance Company; Infinity Property & Casualty Corporation; Uber Technologies, Inc.; Rasier, LLC, Rasier-Cal, LLC; Nelgar J. Carrera; Joe E. Nowotny; Felix Arguelles)

44. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

45. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them, had actual or constructive knowledge of the contract between Girardi Keese Lawyers and Bedford Law Group, P.C. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them, also had actual or constructive knowledge of Bedford Law Group, P.C.'s lien on the case.

46. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them, issued a check upon settlement to Girardi Keese Lawyers and intentionally excluded Bedford Law Group, P.C.'s name from the check.

47. Defendants, and each of them, intentionally interfered with the contract between Plaintiffs and Defendants, Thomas V. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers.

48. Defendants, and each of them, disrupted the performance of, and/or induced a breach of this contract by omitting Bedford Law Group, P.C.'s name from the settlement check tendered to Girardi Keese Lawyers.

49. Defendants' conduct prevented performance of the contract and/or made performance more expensive, difficult or impossible. Defendants' conduct was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiffs' harm in an amount to be proven at trial.

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FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Bad Faith

(Against Defendants Thomas V. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers)

50. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

51. Mr. Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, P.C. entered into an agreement with Thomas V. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers on April 14, 2016 wherein Thomas V. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers would pay Shawn Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, P.C. twenty-five percent of the attorney's fees recovered on *Fulton v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.*; LASC Case No.: BC614754 in exchange for co-counseling and assistance on the case.

52. On or about May 28, 2019, Samantha Gold, from Girardi Keese Lawyers informed Mr. Azizzadeh that *Fulton v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.* had settled in the amount of \$934,300.00.

53. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Thomas V. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers directed Defendants, Tyson And Mendes LLP; Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP; and Farmer Case & Fedor to omit Bedford Law Group, P.C.'s name from the settlement check in exchange for an indemnification agreement.

54. To date, Girardi Keese Lawyers refuse to provide Bedford Law Group, P.C. with twenty-five percent of the attorney's fees received on Ms. Fulton's case.

55. Mr. Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, P.C. fully performed all conditions precedent under the agreement.

56. As a result of Defendants' actions, Plaintiffs suffered damage and Defendants' breach of contract was a substantial factor in causing harm.

57. Defendant's bad faith action was an intentional and malicious component of a larger scheme to withhold payment from Plaintiff and other similarly situated beneficiaries seeking payment of agreed upon attorney's fees and/or liens.

58. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to compensatory and punitive damages as allowed by law in an amount to be proven at trial.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of Business and Professions Code Section 17200 *et seq.*

(Against All Defendants)

59. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

60. This is a representative private attorney general action for unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent business practices. On behalf of Plaintiffs and the general public, Plaintiffs bring this claim pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 17200 *et seq.* Defendants' conduct as alleged in this Complaint has been and continues to be unfair, unlawful, fraudulent, and harmful to Plaintiffs and the general public. Plaintiff seeks to enforce important rights affecting the public interest within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

61. Business and Professions Code 17200 *et seq.* prohibits unlawful and unfair business practices and precludes a person or entity from engaging in unfair competition, which is defined as business practices that are unlawful, unfair or fraudulent. Section 17203 permits the Court in an action based on allegations of unfair competition to issue injunctive, restitutionary or other equitable relief.

62. Plaintiff is a “person” within the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 17204 and therefore has standing to bring this cause of action for injunctive relief, restitution, and other appropriate equitable relief. Plaintiff complied with Code of Civil Procedure section 382.

63. Defendants' violation of Business and Professions Code section 17200 includes engaging in fraudulent, unfair, and unlawful practices of denying an attorney lien due and owing to Plaintiffs.

64. Plaintiffs are informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants violated Business & Professions Code section 17200 by other acts or omissions of which Plaintiffs are presently unaware but which will be shown according to proof at trial.

65. The unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent practices alleged above are imminent and continuing in nature and are widespread practices engaged in by Defendants.

66. Plaintiffs suffered injury in fact and lost money or property as a result of Defendant's unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent competition. Due to Defendant's unlawful and unfair practices, Plaintiffs have been deprived of the benefits they are entitled to under the attorney lien and written agreement between Thomas V. Girardi and Giradi Keese Lawyers.

67. Defendants' acts of unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent competition present a continuing threat to the public's livelihood, welfare and finances. Accordingly, unless Defendants are permanently enjoined and restrained by order of the Court, Defendants will continue to commit acts of unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent competition and will continue to cause irreparable harm and injury to the public.

10 68. Plaintiffs respectfully request this Court order to enjoin Defendants from continuing its
11 unfair, fraudulent, and unlawful practices of willfully, intentionally and maliciously withholding
12 attorney liens, including arbitrarily and capriciously denying payment even when evidence of a
13 written agreement and filed attorney lien is provided.

14 69. Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court order any other and further equitable relief
15 deemed necessary, including restitutionary relief as a result of the unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent
16 practices alleged herein.

17 70. Plaintiffs respectfully request an award of attorney fees upon prevailing in this request for
18 injunctive relief.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Declaratory Relief

21 71. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully
22 set forth herein.

23 72. Plaintiffs, Shawn Azizzadeh, Esq. and Bedford Law Group P.C. entered into a verbal and
24 written agreement with Thomas G. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers on April 14, 2016 for
25 twenty-five percent of the attorney's fees recovered in a civil case entitled *Christina Fulton v.*
26 *Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.*; LASC Case No.: BC614754. Upon settlement, Defendants
27 fraudulently, unlawfully, unfairly, and in bad faith refused to tender twenty-five percent of the
28 attorney's fees recovered.

1 73. The need for Court Declaration of the enforceability of the private agreement between
2 Defendant, Girardi V. Keese, Girardi Keese Lawyers and Plaintiff is an actual need, because
3 Defendants, Thomas G. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers are willfully, intentionally, and
4 maliciously withholding attorney's fees owed and due to Plaintiffs, Shawn Azizzadeh and
5 Bedford Law Group, P.C. Plaintiffs have completed all actions required for payment of the
6 attorney lien, or are relieved of any further action, prior to Defendants paying the attorney liens.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Accounting

(Against Thomas V. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers)

1 74. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set
2 forth herein.

3 75. In the event the Court should refuse to validate the agreement between Plaintiffs and
4 Defendants, as described above, Plaintiffs alternatively allege a cause of action for accounting, in
5 lieu of the actions above for breach of contract, and breach of duty of good faith and fair dealing.

6 76. Mr. Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, P.C. entered into an agreement with Thomas V.
7 Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers on April 14, 2016 wherein Thomas V. Girardi and Girardi
8 Keese Lawyers would pay Shawn Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, P.C. twenty-five percent
9 of the attorney's fees recovered on *Fulton v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.*; LASC Case No.:
20 BC614754 in exchange for co-counseling and assistance on the case.

21 77. Subsequently, Plaintiffs and Defendants jointly undertook representation of Christina
22 Fulton regarding her claims arising from the January 5, 2016 motor vehicle. Plaintiffs, Shawn B.
23 Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, A PC, fully performed all obligations pursuant to the
24 agreement with the above-named Defendants.

25 78. On or about May 28, 2019, Samantha Gold, from Girardi Keese Lawyers informed Mr.
26 Azizzadeh that *Fulton v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.* had settled in the amount of \$934,300.00.

79. Defendants, and each of them, have failed to compensate Plaintiffs for legal services performed totaling 25% of the attorney's fees recovered in Ms. Fulton's case, pursuant to the agreement between Plaintiffs and Defendants.

80. To date, Defendants, and each of them, have failed to compensate Plaintiffs for legal services performed pursuant to the agreement.

81. Plaintiffs are entitled to reasonable attorney's fees, pursuant to the agreement. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendant's breach of the Fee Agreement, Plaintiffs have been damaged by Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs any attorney's fees.

82. Plaintiffs have been damaged in an amount to be determined according to proof at trial.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Quantum Meruit

(Against Thomas V. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers)

83. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

84. In the event the Court should refuse to validate the agreement between Plaintiffs and Defendants, as described above, Plaintiffs alternatively allege a cause of action for quantum meruit, in lieu of the actions above for breach of contract, and breach of duty of good faith and fair dealing.

85. Mr. Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, P.C. entered into an agreement with Thomas V. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers on April 14, 2016 wherein Thomas V. Girardi and Girardi Keese Lawyers would pay Shawn Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, P.C. twenty-five percent of the attorney's fees recovered on *Fulton v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.*; LASC Case No.: BC614754 in exchange for co-counseling and assistance on the case.

86. Plaintiffs, Shawn B. Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, A PC, fully performed all obligations pursuant to the agreement with the above-named Defendants.

87. On or about May 28, 2019, Samantha Gold, from Girardi Keese Lawyers informed Mr. Azizzadeh that *Fulton v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.* had settled in the amount of \$934,300.00.

88. Defendants, and each of them, have failed to compensate Plaintiffs for legal services performed totaling 25% of the attorney's fees recovered in Ms. Fulton's case, pursuant to the agreement between Plaintiffs and Defendants.

89. To date, Defendants, and each of them, have failed to compensate Plaintiffs for legal services performed pursuant to the agreement.

90. Plaintiffs have been damaged in an amount to be determined according to proof at trial.

91. Plaintiffs are entitled to reasonable attorney's fees, pursuant to the agreement. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendant's breach of the Fee Agreement, Plaintiffs have been damaged by Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs any attorney's fees.

92. Plaintiffs have been damaged in an amount to be determined according to proof at trial.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendant as follows:

- 1) Damages for breach of Defendants' contractual duty to pay attorney's fees in the amount of twenty-five percent, plus interest;
- 2) General and special damages, including mental and emotional distress, and prejudgment and post judgment interest for breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing;
- 3) Punitive and exemplary damages for breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing in an amount to be determined at trial pursuant to C.C.P. §3294;
- 4) Attorney fees incurred, pursuant to *Brandt v. Superior Court* (1985) 37 Cal.App.3d 813;
- 5) Costs of suit incurred herein; and
- 6) An award of attorney fees in enforcing the unfair competition laws of Business & Professions Code section 17200 et seq. on behalf of the public welfare;
- 7) For a declaratory ruling of the Court that the full amount of the attorney's lien must be paid to Plaintiff forthwith; and
- 8) Such other and further relief as the court deems just and proper.

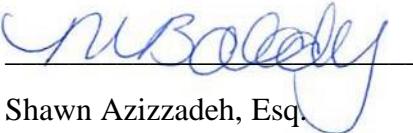
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1 DATED: October 21, 2020

BEDFORD LAW GROUP, P.C.

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Shawn Azizzadeh, Esq.
Michelle Balady, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff,
Shawn Azizzadeh and Bedford Law Group, P.C.

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BEDFORD LAW GROUP, A PC
1875 CENTURY PARK EAST, SUITE 1790
LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

EXHIBIT 2

From: Samantha Gold <sgold@girardikeese.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 5:02 PM
To: Shawn Azizzadeh, Esq. <Shawn@bedfordlg.com>
Cc: John Courtney <jcourtney@girardikeese.com>
Subject: RE: Our Former Client: Christina Fulton

Dear Mr. Azizzadeh:

You are correct that the matter has settled, but it appears that Mr. Girardi's offer to provide you with a 25% fee was withdrawn upon the filing of your lien (as communicated to you in writing in June of 2016). Accordingly, please provide my office with information about the services you rendered to Ms. Fulton in this

case, including but not limited to, the amount of hours allocated.

Sincerely,

Samantha K. Gold, Esq.



1126 Wilshire Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90017

Tel. (213) 977-0211 Ext. 303

Fax. (213) 481-1554

sgold@girardikeese.com

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EXHIBIT 3

From: Samantha Gold <sgold@girardikeese.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 11:26 AM
To: Shawn Azizzadeh, Esq.
Cc: John Courtney
Subject: RE: Our Former Client: Christina Fulton

Dear Mr. Azizzadeh:

Please be advised that the matter settled for a sum total of \$924,300.00; however, Ms. Fulton's recovery will be drastically reduced due to numerous medical provider liens exceeding \$450,000.00. Ms. Fulton treated virtually exclusively under lien agreements for the injuries sustained in the subject collision. Further, the litigation was ongoing for over three years, resulting in substantial case costs for multiple depositions, mediation, etc.

Monies have not yet been disbursed.

Sincerely,

Samantha K. Gold, Esq.



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From: Shawn Azizzadeh, Esq. [<mailto:Shawn@bedfordlg.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 10:35 AM
To: Samantha Gold
Cc: John Courtney
Subject: Re: Our Former Client: Christina Fulton

Hello:

I am following up again. Please provide me with the settlement information by COB today. This is our 4th request. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Shawn Azizzadeh, Esq.